Amendments to the Specification:

Page 1, please replace the paragraph spanning lines 14-25 as follows:

In a conventional machine translation apparatus, translation knowledge [[(]] involves a system dictionary and an user dictionary[[)]]. ~~which~~ The system and ~~an~~ user dictionary ~~can register~~ is restricted to such expressions that the machine translation apparatus determine in advance. These expressions include ~~as~~ a word, an idiom consisting of plural words. ~~and, even~~ Even in ~~the one~~ systems with high performance, which are able to register ~~such~~ a co-occurrence expression consisting of a verb and a noun (such as "have difficulties"), ~~which is caused by that~~ the system and the user dictionary can register only by the form according to a system grammar. This is because ~~since~~ the conventional machine translation apparatus analyzes an original source language text syntactically, translates the language with a translation dictionary and generates a target language text with the grammar and dictionary of target language.

Page 2, please replace the paragraph spanning lines 5-16 as follows:

To ~~achieve~~ overcome the problem mentioned above, there is a translation method and apparatus based on a translation pattern disclosed in Japanese laid-open publication No. JP5-290082, in which the translation knowledge is represented within a range of context-free grammar and a grammatical rule is configured by a pair of an original language pattern and a target language pattern. Also, the grammatical rule is stored in a trie-type dictionary to allow the speed of syntax analysis to be a level of practical use. Further, since the grammatical rule is configured by the pair of the original language

pattern and the target language pattern, a synchronous derivation is enabled and a

language translation and a syntax generation can be achieved only by a simple process.

Page 3, please replace the paragraphs spanning lines 13-26 as follows:

The present invention has been achieved in ~~views~~ view of the aforementioned

problems possessed by the prior art, and an object of the present invention is to provide a

novel and improved apparatus and method for natural language processing capable of

selecting an appropriate result of natural language processing.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an apparatus and a method

for natural language processing that is capable of restricting natural language pattern

according to a grammatical rule, and that ~~avoiding~~ avoids a dictionary to be mass storage

even if the natural language patterns are restricted. ~~and~~ The apparatus and method

according to the invention is capable of achieving a syntax analysis, a syntax generation

and the like by using the natural language patterns. [[,]] ~~and to provide~~ In addition, the

invention provides an apparatus and a method for creating a natural language pattern

dictionary preferable for the apparatus and a method for natural language processing.

Page 11, please replace the paragraph spanning lines 17-23 as follows:

The input/output division 1 comprises: an input processing part 11 for receiving

an input text (original language text) to be translated from an input part 01, for example,

keyboards, file loading apparatus, and the like; and an output processing part 12 for

outputting the translation result (target language text) to an output part 02, for example,

display screens, printers, file storage apparatus, and the like.

Page 12, please replace the paragraph spanning lines 20-23 as follows:

It is to be noted that the machine translation apparatus of first embodiment receives ~~by~~ one sentence at-a-time. ~~and that the~~ The process of the first embodiment will be described by referring to an example in which a sentence " The policeman arrests him" is input.

Page 13, please replace the paragraph spanning lines 15-20 as follows:

In Fig. 4, the left side of the diagram represents English pattern and the right side ~~pattern~~ represents Japanese pattern. The two patterns are paired up and consist of;

[language name: pattern name pattern component].

English (en) or Japanese (ja) is selected in the language name part.

Pages 13-14 , please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 24 and ending at page 14, line 6 as follows:

The pattern component part consists of a word, which may be variable or more than two lists of a word and variable. The variable is expressed by; [any number: pattern name (corresponding to the lower node on tree structure)]. The any number part shows the correspondence between the pair of original language pattern and target language pattern. In the syntax analysis, the pattern can be constructed as a nested structure, that is, the variable will be canceled by applying another pattern to the variable. In addition, the word and the pattern name can hold such a detailed information as a meaning information, as the part with numerals 4-1a and 4-1b attached shows. Further, the word and the pattern name can change the detailed information to the variable form (e.g.,

-4-

{meaning}) for reference to the information as the part with numeral 4-7a attached shows.

Page 21, please replace the paragraph spanning lines 26-30 as follows:

Next, the syntax analysis, especially the pattern evaluation of second embodiment, will be described by referring to an example in which a sentence "He arrests the present deterioration" is input. The translation patterns shown in Fig. 12 are appropriately used in the analysis of this input text.

Pages 26-27, please replace the paragraph beginning on line 27 of page 26 and ending at line one of page 27 as follows:

In the evaluation part field 222, such evaluation parts as "total" meaning that all branches under a self node (for example, or-node) are the evaluation parts and as "child" meaning that a child-node (sectional tree) right under a self node (for example, or-node) is the evaluation part are described.

Page 41, please replace the paragraph spanning lines 15-26 as follows:

In Fig. 33, num and pos represent feature name, and the former is the name representing number (numerical quantity) while the latter is the name representing part of speech. =sg and =n which are following the feature name represent feature value, and the former shows that the number is singular while the latter that the part of speech is noun. Also, * in (VP : *) of Fig. 33 shows that the element (syntax category) with this numeral attached on the right side shows the central element on the right side. The central element

is a pattern component holding central element information. In the syntax analysis shown in Fig. 33, all the features in the central element are copied to the node in the syntax trees corresponding to those on the left side. For example, the feature name of "2:VP" and the corresponding feature value (num = sg) are copied as the feature name and feature value of S (i.e., the parent node) of the left side member. After the copy, the features (in this example, type = normal) themselves written on the left side are set.